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Bulletin



Unexplained Visitors
from Where?



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Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia

INCORPORATED 1988

PUBLICATION NO VBH122

JUNE 1989

Registered by Australia Post

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EDITORIAL

THE KEYS TO OUR DILEMMA

Why have researchers failed over and over again since the start of the modern era of ufology. Why have we been unable to unlock the secret of the UFO, the key or trigger that I am positive exists, that will brake the code to the phenomenon?

As I suspect the answer to the riddle when found will be so simple, in fact so obvious that our limited capacity to grasp the simple solution has blinded us for all these years and will do so until we change out attack.

I suspect this is why governments and scientists can not grasp how important the whole UFO phenomenon will finally be to the human race.

It answers why superpowers who think that they know everything about everything, come to a grinding halt when they recover a piece of equipment that their science can not understand.

In other words "Its not in the text books, I never learnt about it at university and because it does not fulfil the laws of science that I have been taught, it therefore can not exist."

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EDITORIAL

When faced with such obstacles and fear, the only way to handle the quandary, is to either get rid of problem by putting it aside to do at a later date, forget it totally, put it to the back of your mind or just act as if it never happened.

Those who work with governments understand what I mean!

So simple yet so very elusive.

What is it that has driven us all through costly research, endless travel, hours of pains-taking, collecting, collating and analysis of raw data.

When in fact new ideas and major discovery has never germinated from the collection or files, statistics, figures and libraries of information. Paper collection does not solve problems, new ideas do!

I know that we will never solve a problem until we have reached a point in our evolution were we have collected specific tools that will enable us to make the next step to the solution. History is full of these tools of discovery from the first use of fire, the wheel, steam, rockets and so on.

Like a new born baby, each day each step provides more information, experience and tools to satisfy the babies growth. Like a baby in a library or research today is just as fruitless without the tools to decipher.

Therefore I ask you, have we today inherited that tool to unlock the mystery? If so what is that tool? My guess is yes we have that tool or one of a possible group of tools in the form of the COMPUTER!

EDITORIAL

Only over the past two year have I started changing my thinking.

Now for the KEY to open that door!

NEW BULLETIN SUB-EDITOR & PRODUCER

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome RUSSELL BRIERS and wish him the very best on his new appointment as SUB-EDITOR and PRODUCER of this very fine publication.

Not an easy task but one that Russell will tackle with great vigour.

With Russells assistance we are now able to input more Australian information into each edition.

JOHN. W. AUCHETTL

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ON THE UFO TRAIL



Paul B. Norman

During the weekend of 23-24 July, 1988, I was at Ceduna, South Australia, where the police officer, who first interviewed the Knowles Family, was compiling a report for the South Australian Police Department, concerning the family's experience. The Ceduna station was the first office to receive a report directly from the family. They had passed two police stations, one at Eucla, West Australia and one at Penang, South Australia. The Eucla station is well hidden behind small trees in the vicinity.

At that stage, after the experience, the family was in a state of shock trying to come to terms with what had happened. The sequence of events was not cleared up until later after hypnotic sessions by a doctor in Melbourne and at this stage there are still difficulties to overcome before the experience can be fully understood. However, the police officer gave me a copy of the story as first related to him on the same day of the occurrence, 20th January, 1988.

The main interest of the officer, during my visits to his office, was the Philips Laboratory analysis of the dust samples vacuumed from the vehicle and the Channel 7 Adelaide TV VIDEO documented tests showing the wheels of the Telstar will spin at 200 KMH when jacked off the ground. This was a major problem with the police and others who knew the car will not travel at that speed on the ground.

It appears that the driver did not know the car was in the air until it dropped, bursting the right rear tyre. He thought he was speeding that fast to get from under the object. He said the speedometer was at full scale.

After continuing on to the Nullarbor, I found other people who had experienced interference difficulties during close approach of UFOs. One a driver who, when travelling east along the same stretch of highway near Mundrabilla, saw what he at first thought was a truck approaching from the opposite direction with one head light. The light was shining a beam too strong to be headlights. At the same time his own headlights dimmed and his CB radio commenced to "squeal" and a lot of static was making his radio inoperative. When he got to where the light was seen, nothing was there, it faded out completely.

A bus driver related to me another sighting report which occurred within two weeks after the Knowles incident along the same area near Mundrabilla. He was driving west along the same highway when he noticed an oblong object just ahead and to his right at about a 45 degree angle from the ground. The time was before dark and all passengers saw the "thing", described as silver in colour. The driver did not want to get into the limelight of ridicule.

Another came forward to tell me that he stopped at a location in the same vicinity where a car had overturned and the driver of the car told him that he was trying to dodge a UFO when he ran off the road. That incident occurred about one year before the Knowles encounter.

The same night of the Knowles encounter, the tuna fishing boat MONIKA was buzzed by a strange light. The report was confirmed by police at Port Lincoln, home of the Australian Bluefin Fleet. The captain was requested to report to the police station when the Monika arrived in port, but due to ridicule already being dished out by arm chair debunkers, the captain declined, however, I did speak to the owner of the

Monika who confirmed that two members of the crew had observed a similar light but the media had added the dust and slow motion voices, as experienced by the Knowles.

A witness from another tuna boat of the same fleet did respond to the police request and a copy of his report was given to me by a policeman at the Ceduna office.

On the evening of 2nd August, I arrived in Perth for another visit with the Knowles, including Mr Knowles who had not accompanied them on their trip to Melbourne. Mrs Knowles and sons by then, six months after their frightening ordeal, had settled down to normal routines but were still eager for more information and results of tests, so they could have a better understanding of their experience.

All members of the family expressed appreciation for help from the VUFORS committee, the only people, other than their relatives, who had demonstrated concern regarding their welfare. While in Melbourne, they had received independent medical and psychiatric examination and care, including hypnosis to sort out the sequence of events during the running encounter with the unknown object.

There were certain aspects which caused us some anxiety; one was the swelling of the hand of Mrs Knowles, the general reaction on the family and patchy loss of hair from one of the dogs. Our concern stemmed from our knowledge of other cases where close encounters had caused similar symptoms of illness.

During my August visit with the family, they mentioned several examples where they had been mistreated by members of the media and individuals interested only in making money out of their predicament.

During the course of events following the UFO episode their car was repossessed and sold at auction. They had requested previously that I drive the car from Adelaide, when returning to Melbourne, after tests

had been completed. At that time they were visiting relatives there. They considered the vehicle was a jinx after the frightening experience and wanted to sell it.

In addition, I was wanting to drive the car to Melbourne where the Ford Motor Company was interested in conducting other tests when it arrived there.

About one hour before I was to leave Adelaide, on 4th February, a man knocked on the door of my hotel room to tell me the owner had given him authority to keep the vehicle in Adelaide for an exhibition. When I arrived back in Melbourne, I learned the family had been told that I did not want to drive the car to Melbourne.

During my August visit, in Perth, I learned additional details with regard to the transaction: An authority had not been signed until 10th of February, six days after my return to Melbourne.

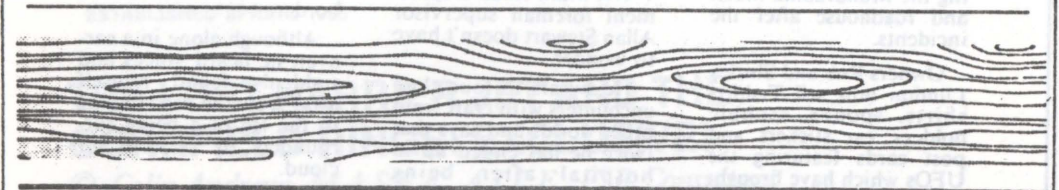
The family mentioned several other examples illustrating how they had been mistreated. Their hope had been encouraged by promises of looking for Australian and other overseas markets for television commercials and making a documentary movie dealing with the UFO encounter.

Also, the vehicle was to be placed on exhibition and all expertise would be used to promote and market the car to it's fullest advantage. The agent stated the venture would be costing him a considerable amount of time and money, like phone calls, faxing, staff, telegrams and travelling, to make arrangements for transport for the vehicle.

The family was to receive 65% net. The promises were altogether different from the reality suffered by the family: A loss of nearly \$20,000, most of the money was tied up in the car, six weeks away from home, four more weeks than they had prepared to stay away, and cost of airline tickets to fly back to Perth. They were relying on the money promised by the agent.

All these troubles in addition to the ridicule dished out by the debunkers; reinforced by comments from individuals of the scientific community who don't know enough about documented cases to even ask sensible questions, let alone how to deal with the problem, made their position even more uncomfortable. The research on this important case still continues.

Paul Norman.



Frank and Ernest

by Bob Thaves



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Are UFOs patrolling the Nullarbor Plain?

UFO watchers from all over the world began calling the Mundrabilla motel and roadhouse after the incidents.

Owners Rob and Shirley Landon now sell T-shirts, shirts, spoons, stubbie holders, car stickers and post cards featuring the UFOs which have brought fame to the outback fly speck on the map.

Soon after the sighting, Japanese tourists flew in and a UFO hunter from the U.S. spent a week in the area.

Calls came from almost every country in the world and tourists still ask about UFOs.

Suddenly people who had kept quiet before are no longer reluctant to talk of strange encounters on the plain near Mundrabilla.

Truckies talk in the roadhouse and bars about bright lights travelling parallel to them along the highway.

Other motorists have told of power losses and electrical failures along the road.

A fisherman driving from Mundrabilla along the track to Wanteen on the beach said his car suddenly stalled, its lights went out and the gauges didn't operate.

Minutes later he was able to drive away normally.

Even sceptics on the highway are wondering.

WA Main Road Department foreman supervisor Allan Stewart doesn't have to wonder.

He swears to four close encounters with craft from other worlds and says that twice he has ended up in hospital after being "zapped" as a warning to stay away.

Small dark marks appeared on his shoulder and kidney area after an encounter 12 months ago near Mundrabilla which put him in hospital for nine days.

Doctors were never able to explain the pain he had experienced or the marks, he said.

"I believe they (the aliens) have a way of probing people. They are definitely watching us."

Allan, 53, has been working the highway for 36 years, watching strange lights and listening to stories from others who have made similar sightings.

The UFOs, usually disc shaped but sometimes cigar shaped, vary in colour from blue to pale green.

He has seen one as big as a football field and tiny ones which he believes are scout craft.

Allan spends nights on the plain watching the skies for the craft. He spends hours on the lonely dark airstrip opposite the Mundrabilla hotel hoping for a sighting.

His first close encounter was in 1977 on the South Australian side of the border.

Although alone in a caravan he heard voices and suddenly found himself away from the van clinging to the leg of a being surrounded by a mist or cloud.

There is always a chill in the air when UFOs are close, he says.

'Zapped'

About a year ago he was alone in the MRD camp at Mundrabilla when he woke to find all the taps, washing-machines and pumps going full bore.

Two days later he claims he was again "zapped" by some form of beam from a UFO.

He claims truck drivers have told of being pinned to the ground while changing tyres at night on the highway.

And of vehicles losing all power as they approached each other.

And he claims to have had realistic "dreams" of being inside alien craft.

"Over the last couple of years people have become less reluctant to talk about their encounters," he said.

"The outback Aborigines know what's going on. They often talk about strange sightings. They have a very strong belief in these things."

"I believe these beings are concerned about what we are doing to our planet."



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Limited 1981

VOL. 33, NO. 2
(JUNE QUARTER, 1988)

THE LOST HARRIER JET AND THE CORNFIELD RINGS: EXCLUSIVE!

© Colin Andrews, M.A.S.E.E., A.I.L.E., FSR Consultant

COMPLETE mystery still surrounds the top-secret British Harrier GR5 jump-jet aircraft which, pilotless, flew on for over 500 miles and eventually crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the south coast of Ireland on Thursday, October 22, 1987.

The machine had taken off from Dunsfold in Surrey on a test flight at 16.59 hrs. with Pilot Humphrey Taylor Scott at the controls. Six minutes later, and without any hint of an emergency from its pilot, radio contact was suddenly lost over Wiltshire to the west.

The last radio message was a routine one, to air-traffic controllers at the top-secret Boscombe Down Air Force Base near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Filmed by Americans

Other aircraft were immediately alerted after the loss of radio contact, and an American military transporter made visual contact with the Harrier 90 miles to the west of the south-west tip of Ireland. The transporter was conveniently equipped with video camera, and filmed the Harrier in flight! The astonished American crew reported that the jet-fighter had no cockpit canopy, and that its pilot was missing. They shadowed the Harrier for 410 miles, until it finally went down 300 miles out over the Atlantic Ocean.

The Pilot Found

Despite a huge search operation, involving aircraft, shipping, life-boats and even mountain-rescue teams in South Wales, no trace of the pilot could be found. Then, on Friday, October 23, a gamekeeper, Mr Ken Pitman, came across the body of an airman lying in a field near the village of Winterbourne Stoke, near Stonehenge, in Wiltshire. A local television news programme gave this announcement as a late news item received at the end of the programme. I immediately got into my car and headed along the A303 Highway towards the village, which is just 18 miles from my home in Andover, Hampshire.

The location of Winterbourne Stoke already meant something to me, for it was in a cornfield near that village that a set of four mysterious circles of "swirled", flattened indentations had been found on Saturday,

August 22, only eight weeks earlier. Photo 1 shows these large formations as they were when found, and was taken by Nigel Taylor as we flew over the area on one of our regular reconnaissance inspections of the area.

When I arrived at Winterbourne Stoke after hearing the news programme announcement, I at once made my way to the field where we had found these circles some weeks earlier.

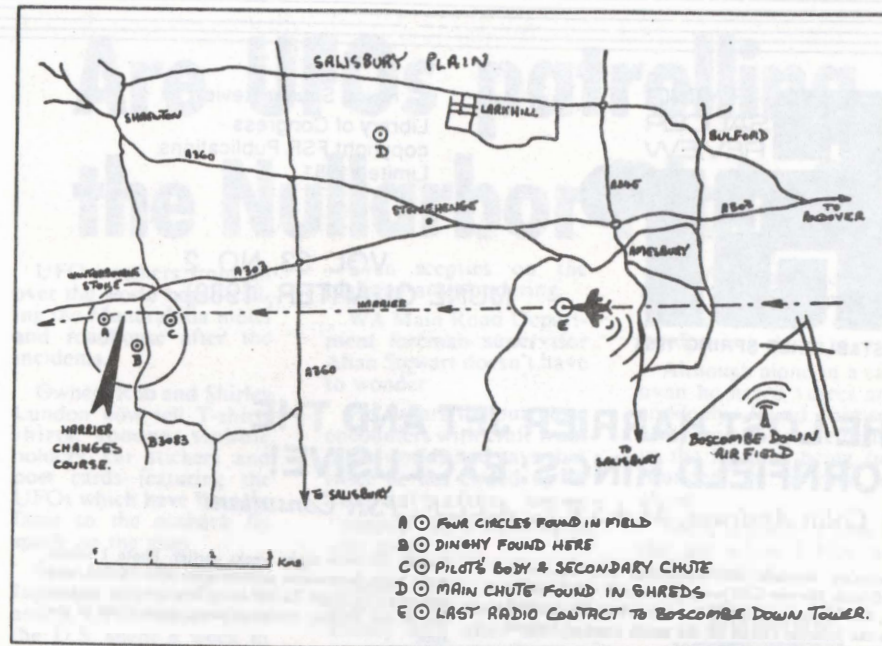
A battery of floodlights cut into the darkened countryside, and surrounded a spot in a field just opposite to the site of our set of "mystery circles". A large gathering of Military Personnel could be seen moving around inside the illuminated area. A parachute lay nearby. In the darkness I could just make out two Army vehicles parked in the corner of that very field where the circles had been found. Whoever was in the vehicles was guarding an inflatable dinghy.

For some reason which I cannot explain (except to say that it was intuitive — EDITOR) I had had a strong inner feeling that the finding of the pilot might in some way be associated with the phenomenon of the circles. And I had that feeling even before I heard where the accident had happened. Strangely, therefore, it did not come as a great surprise to me when I heard that the mishap to the pilot had taken place above that very field where the circles had been. It seemed only a confirmation.

I decided that the most responsible action I could take would be to contact the Ministry of Defence and inform them of my researches on the mystery rings in the cornfields throughout southern Britain in particular as well as in other parts of the world, and explain to them how this incident with the Harrier aircraft troubled me.

Reaction of Ministry of Defence

So on November 2, 1987, I telephoned to the Boscombe Down Air Force Base. They informed me that the Harrier inquiry had now been transferred to Prospect House in London, and advised me to talk to the man heading the inquiry, Squadron-Leader Graham Davis. I rang the telephone number which they had given me, and was answered by a Sq. Ldr. Pike, who told me that Sq. Ldr. Davis was still out on Salisbury



Plain conducting his investigations, and that it was he (Sq.-Ldr. Davis) to whom I should tell what I had to say.

Until that point I had made no mention of the cornfield circles. I now proceeded to tell Sq.-Ldr. Pike of our research and of our recent discoveries near this village of Winterbourne Stoke. *He was very interested, and asked me many questions. "How do you think these circles are formed?" he asked. "What kind of energy do you suppose is involved?" "Where have you seen these things?" "Do you know of anybody who has seen one being formed?" etc., etc.*

I explained that I believed the phenomenon was very rare indeed but nevertheless world-wide, but that this, the southern part of England, is experiencing a far higher frequency of reports than any other part of the entire world. And I concluded: *"What I feel to be significant is that this very field in which four circles were recently found lies directly below the area in Space where it seems that this pilot was taken out of his £13.5 million pounds' worth of jet-fighter."*

Later on that same day I received a telephone call from the Ministry of Defence to advise me that my information had been conveyed to Sq.-Ldr. Davis, and that it had also been "conveyed to the Boss". "We will be in touch with you again soon," they said.

Pilot Changed Course

Nothing further has been heard from the Ministry so far. Meanwhile I have been carrying on with my own investigations and enquiries in and around Winterbourne Stoke, and the information I have obtained confirms that the Harrier changed its course by a few degrees right over the field with the circles, and that the pilot inexplicably left his aircraft at about that point in his flight. He was not ejected by the ejector-seat with which the aircraft was fitted. That remained in the aircraft. An inflatable dinghy left the aircraft with him, as



did his main parachute.

The main chute was found in shreds, north of the famous circle of stones, Stonehenge. The body of the pilot and his secondary chute were found at a spot overlooking the field that had the mystery circles in August 1987.

The dinghy was found in that same field which had had the circles.

This means that we now have two extremely strange and rare occurrences, both attributed to completely mysterious causes, over one and the same field within the span of a few weeks (August 22, 1987, and October 22, 1987). Can there be a connection?

Other Crashes

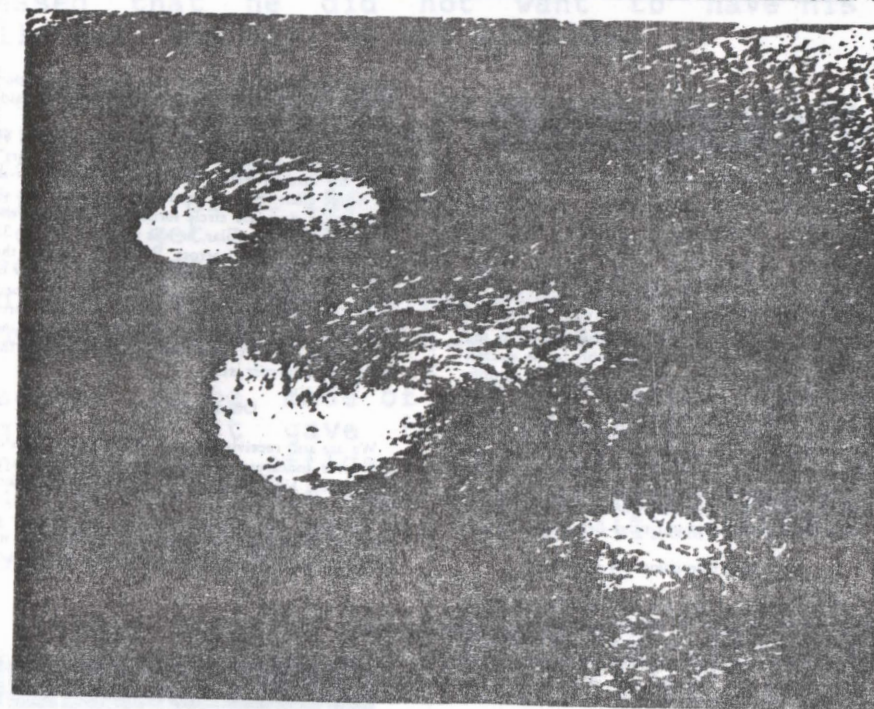
The situation is not improved when we have to take into consideration other aircraft crashes in fields on which other circles have been found.

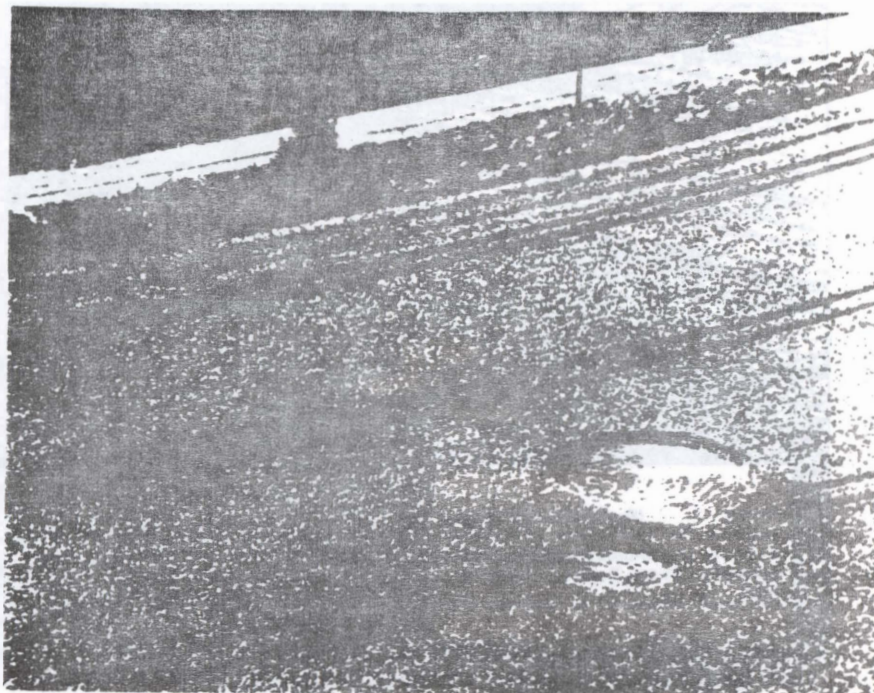
One such crash took place in a field below Pepperbox Hill, near Whiteparish, in Wiltshire, approximately thirty years ago. Two mysterious circles were found shortly afterwards, just yards away from the site of the crash. And circles are still appearing in these same fields, the latest being a circle and a ring found in June 1987.

Army helicopter which crashed in October 1978 at the exact spot where a huge UFO would be seen, on Stockbridge Downs, on July 6, 1985 (nearly seven years later) by Mr Jack and Mrs Pat Collins. Ten circles appeared in fields on either side of the UFO during that same night. (See FSR Vol. 32, No. 6, published 1987.)



Photos (Furnished to Mr Collin Andrews). The "three-ringer" at Westbury, as photographed by the Army helicopter 3.05 pm, Tuesday, August 4th, 1987.





The Inquest

The inquest regarding the cause of death of the Harrier pilot, Humphrey Taylor Scott, was held in Salisbury on Monday March 28, 1988. The M.O.D (Ministry of Defence) said that, without examining the ejector-seat, which was still presumably in the aircraft at the bottom of the sea, it was not possible to identify the cause of the accident positively. But the most plausible reason, they said, was the inadvertent firing of a manual separation device, designed for use after the ejector-seat had left the aircraft. This firing may have been caused by a lead lamp having fallen from its clip and become lodged under the manual override operating rod on the right of the seat, which linked the handle to the cartridge-firing unit.

Interesting Admissions by an Officer

However, when I spoke to Sq. Ldr. Graham Davis that same evening, he was surprisingly frank and told me: "We do not know what caused this, quite honestly". He went on to say: "I do not think the mystery circles, which I have also seen, and this, are related on this occasion." He admitted that the circles formations were a puzzling phenomenon, and he asked me to

contact him again if I had any more information which I considered they should know about. He said: "There is a lot that we don't know."

I was impressed by Sq. Ldr. Davis's attitude, and by his willingness to discuss "our problem" and "theirs". I had the distinct feeling that he was unhappy with the whole affair. He was keen for me to tell him all about other ring and circle formations found in the locality, and, in particular, he was interested in the 38 circles found by us across Wiltshire during the summer of 1987 — circles in which a large number of plants had been ripped out of the ground, with their roots and soil attached, and thrown by some force completely out of the compressed circles on to the surrounding area. (A force well capable of lifting the canopy of a Harrier jet?)

Official Concern

We are still receiving details from several parts of the world concerning the findings of such circles at spots where UFO landings are known to have taken place.

Moreover, it is very evident that the Ministry of Defence are taking a real interest in the alarming increase in both UFO sightings and circular markings.*



MICHIGAN STATE DIRECTOR
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MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

U.S.A. POLICE ENCOUNTER WITH ANOTHER FINDING OF POTASSIUM CHLORIDE

On the afternoon of December 4th, 1988, we received a call on the PA. UFO Hotline from a law enforcement officer in DAUPHIN COUNTY, USA, who had experienced a low level UFO encounter with physical effects. At first he questioned us as to how we handled these reports, our motive in obtaining the information and stressed that he did not want to have his name publicized. Shortly, we met with him.

The officer related that he was on his way to work when he saw a bright light through some trees. As he approached, he saw that the object was hovering over power lines about 150 feet away. Stopping his car he got out to get a better look. The light from the object was so bright that he had to shield his eyes with his hand. The object was about 75 feet in diameter and shaped like a flattened oval.

It seemed to be made of polished silver, but was so bright that it gave the impression of burning magnesium. The officer also observed feeling as though he was within some sort of mist, and noticed that the interior of his car was illuminated a blue colour.

The witness reported feeling warm even though it was quite cold outside. His eyes watered, his hair stood on end and he experienced a jolt like an electric shock.

The object emitted a moderate to high pitched humming sound, and the officer felt like his ears were vibrating. The object then moved from left to right before ascending towards the southwest at a high rate of speed, leaving behind a white trail in the sky.

After the object departed, the officer experienced a burning sensation in the facial area, aches in the neck muscles and spinal column and a headache. His eyes hurt badly and seemed out of focus. His hearing also seemed to be deafened. Feeling weak and disoriented, he was unsure about proceeding to work.

He put his trust in his fellow officers and told them the story. Another officer commented that at about the same time of the sighting, he had been dressing when he heard a strange humming sound that seemed to be over the roof of his house. He lives in the direction of where the object departed.

The officer also noticed an unusual powder-like dust on the surface of his car. The paint on the car appeared much duller than it had been. The PASU investigator took photos of the facial area of the witness and it gave us the impression of first degree sunburn. Naturally the witness is quite distressed over the encounter.

Using sampling tape we were able to obtain residue samples of the dust from the crevices around the car windows and other areas. While more tests are being conducted, it has been determined that the dust is POTASSIUM CHLORIDE.



PAUL NORMAN
Investigator for the
**VICTORIAN UFO
RESEARCH SOCIETY**

For private interviews with witnesses who have observed unidentified flying objects.
The Society is in direct contact with leading scientists who are endeavouring to solve the UFO phenomena.

People interested in this subject may subscribe to The Australian UFO Bulletin,
PO Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic., 3189.

As some of you may recall, during 1988, the national news media widely covered a UFO case out of Australia where a family claimed that they were lifted into the air while in their vehicle by a UFO. In that case a strange dust was found both inside and outside the car which was also identified as Potassium Chloride.

If this is true, then it would mean that two well documented UFO cases, several months apart, from two different parts of the world would have exposed the same residue.

(C) MUFON 1989

Many thanks to Shirley Coyne, MUFON Michigan State Director for sending the above report to VUFORS, our best regards to your members.

JOHN AUCHETTL

Aliens 'buzzed' space shuttle

LONDON, THURSDAY

American radio hams claim aliens buzzed the space shuttle Discovery as it flew high over Earth earlier this month. London's Star newspaper today quoted experts saying the UFOs tracked the shuttle during its five-day flight.

They locked on to the spacecraft's controls, causing a sudden loss of power.

The Discovery's five-man crew, trained in UFO sighting, reported the close encounter to NASA.

The conversation was picked up by radio hams in the US. NASA chiefs in Houston, Texas, have refused to release the recordings. But one man in Baltimore, Maryland, claims to have taped the conversation.

It was played to the Star which said Discovery pilot Colonel John Blaha was heard saying: "Houston, this is Discovery. We still have the alien spacecraft under observation."

NASA and Col Blaha angrily deny there was any contact with a UFO.

HERALD BUREAU

KNIGHT'S DAY



Herald

31st Mar

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Mysterious lights

Lights in the sky, under the sea and in caverns deep beneath the earth. Mysterious lights that flit across marshes, hover over graves or haunt the paths to the graveyard. Lights that enter houses by way of the chimney, bright lights that swoop and hover, lights menacing or innocuous, gaseous or animate, casual or purposeful.

There are many names for the phenomenon – UFOs, fireballs, spirits of the dead, fairies, wills-o'-the-wisp, corpse candles, luminous serpents – but we suspect most of them as implying explanations for the unexplained. Ball lightning is a comfortable name for floating balls of light, but there is no agreement as to the nature of the phenomenon it is supposed to explain, nor on the characteristics to be expected in it. As recently as 1943 W. J. Humphries in *Ways of the Weather* was still of the traditional opinion that light balls were 'a humbug' or optical illusions. Here are the views of two other authorities:

'Floating ball lightning is not dangerous to human beings, even when it appears in the middle of a group of persons; it appears to avoid them [as] it avoids good conductors.' (Professor B. L. Goodlet, *Journal of the Institute of Electrical Engineers*, July 1937.)

'It is very dangerous to touch a fireball. An inquisitive child once kicked one and thereby caused an explosion which killed eleven cattle and threw the child and a companion to the ground.' (Frank Lane, *The Elements Rage*, 1945.)

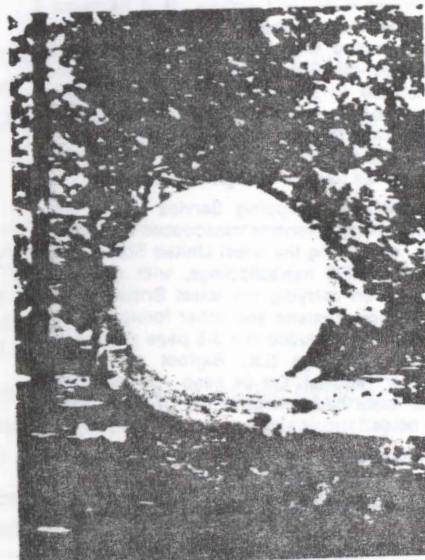
Mr Lane illustrates the 'ball lightning' phenomenon with the following recorded incident:

'A young girl was seated at a table when she noticed a large ball of fire

moving slowly across the floor of the room in her direction. As the fireball neared her it rose and commenced to spiral round her. It then darted towards a hole in the chimney and climbed up it. On reaching the open air it exploded just above the roof with a crash that shook the entire house.'

Tradition associates the appearance of floating lights with death, and many instances are recorded in support of this belief. Several of these were collected from witnesses by the former U'S Consul in Wales, Mr Wirt Sikes, author of *British Goblins*. On one occasion three of the pale lights the Welsh call 'corpse candles' were seen by all the passengers

(Below) A 'ghost light' photographed in Basle Zoological Gardens in 1907.



(Above) A fireball seen during a storm in Salagnac, France, in September 1845.

on the coach from Llandilo to Carmarthen as they crossed the river bridge by Golden Grove. A few days later three men were drowned at the spot when their coracle capsized. It is said that the number of the lights foretells the number of deaths to be expected. In John Aubrey's *Miscellanies* is the story of a woman who saw five lights in a room occupied by five maids in the house where she worked. The room had been newly plastered, a fire was lit to dry it, and the fumes stifled the girls in their beds. The appearance of corpse candles on the path leading to a burial ground is supposed, on the strength of numerous anecdotes, to signify that a funeral will shortly pass that way.

Baron von Reichenbach, famous for his earnest inquiries into the nature of the 'magnetic' light which some people see as auras or energy fields, was curious about the lights, wraiths, spectres or whatever, commonly apparent in graveyards. One of his lady colleagues, Miss Leopoldina Reichel, was gifted with the sight of such things. They appeared to her as dancing lights, some as big as men, others small, 'like dwarfish kobolds'. She was able to move among them and whisk them about with her skirt. Reichenbach, who believed himself to be the

discoverer of an essence he called odic energy, brought his theory to bear on the evidence and came up with this resounding explanation of graveyard luminescence:

'It is a carbonate of ammonium, phosphuretted hydrogen and other products of putrefaction, known and unknown, which liberate odic light in the course of evaporation. When the putrefaction comes to an end, the lights are quenched – the dead have atoned.' (*Letters on Od and Magnetism*, 1926.)

Baring-Gould in *A Book of Folklore* also invoked 'phosphuretted hydrogen' as the explanation of graveyard lights. On one occasion his brother's overcoat, thrown over a grave, became impregnated with the stuff, causing him to faint. Baring-Gould quotes several instances of lights which have appeared to give warning of death by travelling along the coffin route or entering the house of the doomed person; but though he is prepared to accept the reality of stationary lights above graves, he rejects the moving variety: 'That these flames should travel down roads and seek houses where there is one dying is, of course, an exaggeration and untenable.'

The moving lights which are called ball lightning when they occur indoors become wildfire or wills-o'-the-wisp in

Explanations for the will-o'-the-wisp vary from ignited marsh gas to spirits of the dead. Often it is said to display intelligence or purpose, sometimes malevolent but sometimes revealing treasure. Its two followers, below, are about to leave him it stands in their case.



the open air. They are variously explained as combusted methane (marsh gas), fairies or spirits, but there is no proof for any theory, or disproof, and according to the 1970 *Encyclopaedia Britannica* 'no entirely satisfactory explanation has been put forward' for the phenomenon. It may be significant that as the fairies disappeared from their once familiar haunts, so did the will-o'-the-wisp. In 1855 a correspondent in *Notes and Queries* asked whether in fact such a thing existed outside poetic tradition and was answered by several people claiming direct experience and providing descriptions. Dermot MacManus in *The Middle Kingdom* tells of personal encounters with 'fairy lights', which he says are different from the will-o'-the-wisp because they are of many colours and 'as bright and stable as electric

lights'. One procession of such lights was seen to fly in formation from their usual haunt on a 'fairy fort' named Crillaun near Castlebar in the west of Ireland to another such earthwork on the opposite side of a lake. About the nature of the will-o'-the-wisp MacManus is undecided. Sometimes it seems to be inanimate and may be kicked or whisked about like von Reichenbach's kobolds; yet there was a girl he knew, 'very intelligent and well balanced', who was followed by a moving light, coming for her at running speed and changing direction to pursue her home. 'To this day she is convinced that it was directed by real intelligence.'

A most terrifying moving light chased and caught Mr Terry Pell of Spalding, Lincolnshire, as he drove his vegetable lorry towards Warminster in Wiltshire

in the early morning of 10 August 1965. Warminster at the time was undergoing one of its periodic plagues of weird aerial visitations, details of which are faithfully chronicled by local journalist and author, Arthur Shuttlewood, in his book *The Warminster Mystery*. Forty five minutes before Mr Pell had his adventure, at 3.45 a.m., Mrs Rachel Atwill a few miles away, saw what many others in the district have reported seeing, a bright staring light in the sky. She was awakened by a loud droning noise, looked through the window of her bungalow and saw the light, dome-shaped on top, hovering over the range of hills opposite. It stayed there for twenty-five minutes, humming and flickering, then vanished. Mrs Atwill suffered a headache and had to drink brandy. She recognized the shape in a photograph taken nineteen days later by Gordon Faulkner of Warminster and published in the *Warminster Journal* and the *London Daily Mirror*. When Mr Pell saw the light it was floating fifty yards in front of his lorry, having flashed into view from over the hills to his left. It was red and looked like a giant headlight or a human eye. It advanced on Mr Pell's lorry and fastened itself to the wind-screen, vibrating. The lorry stopped. Its sleeping passengers, Mrs Pell and daughter Wendy, woke up to see the

light ball soar aloft and away. They were frightened but unhurt.

This incident is far from unique; for the UFO literature abounds in modern events of the sort which, when they have happened in the past, feature in collections of folk- and fairy-lore. Here is a report from Brad Steiger's *Flying Saucers are Hostile*, 1967, where it is given, as is customary in the folklore books, without reference to its original source. Mr William Howell of Texas was driving home at 11.15 one evening in the summer of 1965. Like Mr Pell he had two sleeping passengers, his brother's children, and he was also near a prominent local landmark, Foggy Hill. A light appeared overhead:

'It seemed to head directly for my car. It gave off a bluish light that became so bright the entire car seemed bathed in a blue haze. If that thing would have been a meteor, it would have landed with a big crash. It didn't. It made a sharp turn to the southwest and shot off in a burst of speed.'

(C) J. MICHELL & R. J. M. RICKARD
PHENOMENA 1977
Thames and Hudson Ltd LONDON



MEMBER
International Committee for UFO Research

P.O. Box 43, Moorbah, Vic. 3189, Australia



POTENT QUOTES

"I just got my copy of the Condon Report and find that in between the lines it is not anywhere as bad as the blatant newspaper accounts had led me to believe. There are a number of cases which even the Condon Committee calls unidentified and they admit that the astronauts on three occasions saw objects they definitely couldn't explain. These points were not brought out in the newspapers."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek;
Head of the Dept. of Astronomy, Northwestern University; scientific consultant to the Air Force on the subject of UFO's

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"Once exposed to the facts, even if you were a disbeliever, you cannot help but have new and probably different feelings about the subject. The evidence supporting the existence of this unexplainable phenomenon is overwhelming."

Robert Emenecker
UFO's Past, Present and Future

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"If these things are real — and by all human standards it hardly seems possible to doubt this any longer — then we are left with only two hypotheses: that of their weightlessness on the one hand, and of their psychic nature on the other....Of course, next to nothing has been gained as regards the physical explanation of the phenomenon, but the psychic aspect plays so great a role that it cannot be left out of account."

Dr. Carl G. Jung

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"Among the omissions were the transoceanic crash and the Braniff 1959 disaster; the AF attempt to down a UFO near Redmond, Oregon, proved by FAA logs and

traffic controllers reports; the 1958 AF transport encounter, where the captain reported they were 'shot at' by a UFO; and other serious and significant cases. Cases of UFO-caused injuries were left out or denied, including airliner near-collisions in which passengers were hurt."

Major Donald Keyhoe
referring to the Condon Report in
"Aliens From Space"

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"The official admission that UFO's are alien space craft will startle millions and probably frighten many a first. But once the citizens know all the facts—and the lack of proven hostility—the hysteria should diminish....Behind the scenes, highly placed secrecy opponents are working for a completely new, unbiased and open investigation of all the evaded and hidden evidence. It will probably lead to a full-scale crash program like the Manhattan Project, which produced the A-bomb, with thousands of scientists and engineers searching for clues to the UFO's advanced technology."

To reduce the chance of panic, officials would first release harmless reports from the thousands on record. The disturbing cases would probably be made public one or two at a time, the least startling ones at the beginning...."

Major Donald Keyhoe
"Aliens From Space"

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"Frankly, it is my opinion that the (U.S.) Government is preparing us for some momentous news concerning UFO's—I detect some very clever groundwork being done and the sooner they tell us the truth, the better off we'll be."

Martin M. Singer, Editorial Director
Saga's UFO Report

(C) NORTH AMERICAN SETI MAGAZINE.

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"...If your listeners could see for themselves the mass of reports (concerning landed UFO's with occupants) coming in from the airborne gendarmerie (police), from the mobile gendarmerie, and from the gendarmerie charged with the job of conducting investigations....then they would see that it is all pretty disturbing....In fact the number of these gendarmerie reports is very great, and they are very varied."

From a radio interview with Robert Galley,
French Minister of Defense

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"Many people shy away from everyone who claims to have seen and talked to visitors from other worlds. The natural reaction is to doubt their word, their sanity, or both; yet when scientists and astronomers with the status of men like Dr. W. Buhler, Aime Michel, Jaques Vallee, and Gordon Creighton come forward with a fully documented report of landings and contacts—over 300 of them—between beings from outer space and earth humans, one must reconsider."

From the front jacket of
"The Humanoids" by Gordon Creighton

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"I feel that the Air Force has not been giving out all the available information on these Unidentified Flying Objects. You cannot disregard so many unimpeachable sources."

Honorable John McCormack,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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"Unidentified flying objects are entering our atmosphere at very high speeds and obviously under intelli-

gent control. We must solve this riddle without delay."

Rear Admiral Delmar Fahrney,
USNR

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"Something unknown to our understanding is visiting this earth."

Dr. Mitrovan Zverev
(USSR)

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"There is scientific evidence that strange objects are circling our planet. It is lamentable that governments have drawn a veil of secrecy around this matter."

Prof. Gabriel Alvia,
Cerro Calan Observatory

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"I've been convinced for a long time that the flying saucers are interplanetary. We are being watched by beings from outer space."

Albert M. Chop, NASA
former U.S. Air Force spokesman,
Project Blue Book

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"In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena."

Former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford

NEW MAGAZINE

Every year see's the introduction and the passing way of some form of UFO magazine or publication. Therefore it was with some joy, that we received a copy of a new publication, produced with the assistance of some of the best UFOLOGISTS in the world today. That publication is advertised on page 4 of this edition of our Bulletin and called NORTH AMERICAN SETI MAGAZINE. We recommend the magazine to all our members for it is very well produced and full of important, new and interesting UFO data. An extract of that information can be found on page 22 & page 23 (Potent Quotes), for which we must give thanks and credit to the producers of SETI.

SCIENTISTS CONFIRM: THERE MAY BE A PARALLEL UNIVERSE

Paul Whitehead, FSR Consultant

Speculation is mounting that scientists may be on the verge of a breakthrough in the search for a parallel universe, complete with its own galaxies, planets and intelligent beings.

Writing in *The Guardian* on February 13th 1987, under the headline "Who Knows What's Hiding In The Dark?" the physicist Dr Frank Close* revealed that scientists are developing devices to detect an invisible mass that permeates our universe.

He writes: "There is a growing suspicion that we are not alone. The universe that we see is no more than a flotsam in a vast sea of dark matter, invisible to our present technology."

"Like H.G. Wells' invisible man, the dark matter gives its presence away by jostling the visible crowd, so we know that it is there."

As reported in *Flying Saucer Review* (Vol 31, No. 2 1986, page 23), scientists have been puzzled. Our universe behaves in a way that indicates the presence of a huge missing mass; as much as 90 per cent of the mass that our universe ought to contain (to explain its characteristics) is invisible to us!

For example, according to Dr Frank Close, the galaxies in our visible universe rotate too quickly to survive — they should have dissipated long ago.

The visible stars do not have enough mass to hold the systems together by gravity — yet survive they do," Dr Close writes.

"Something is also holding galaxies together, allowing them to move around each other quickly without breaking up. That 'something else' is probably an 'enormous mass' — astronomers are certain that it is there."

The question is: what is this dark matter made of? "The current suspicion is that the dark matter consists dominantly of massive particles that are slow-moving and that were 'left behind' as the universe expanded. Gravity would have concentrated them to form clusters on all scales, from clusters of stars to individual galaxies or groups of galaxies," Close writes.

The study of heavy particles is tied up at least in part with the super-string theory developed by Mike Green of Queen Mary College, London (FSR, Vol 31, No 2 again). "This theory... seems to predict that there is a whole shadow-universe operating concurrently with our own," Close adds.

Although Dr Close does not mention it in his article, the super-string theory predicts the existence of a string of progressively heavier particles; the universe we know is formed from only one small part of these strings — a much heavier universe, existing in the same place as our own, would be made up of the heavier parts of the super-strings.

There may be other universes or other dimensions on other parts of the strings. The scientist and FSR consultant Dr Jacques Vallée is known to be interested in a "multi-dimensional" universe as an explanation for the origin of UFOs. He believes UFOs travel from dimension to dimension, and that their ability to do so explains many of their characteristics.

Just two years ago, scientists claimed that we would be able to detect a parallel universe only by its gravity. Now, new techniques are being developed to detect the heavy missing mass that may comprise the other universe.

"The strategies for detecting dark matter exploit the fact that it must interact very weakly with us," Close writes. The particles comprising the dark matter may be heavy or light in weight; if they are light, they will convert into protons under the influence of a magnetic field "and leave an electromagnetic whisper in the presence of magnetism," according to Close.

"So, scientists are developing tuneable microwave cavities to detect a small excess of protons whose energy would signal the mass of the dark particles."

By contrast, he continues, "if the particles are heavy, they will cause the nuclei of visible matter to recoil when they hit them. This will warm matter up slightly, perhaps only a few thousandths of a degree. Thus, we have to look for this slight warming."

If dark matter exists and forms a parallel universe, it could have its own intelligent beings, Close suggests. Some of the answers scientists are looking for "may be known soon", he says. "Within two years" says a recent report in the *New Scientist*.

FSR will report on any new developments as they arise. The concept of a much heavier invisible universe goes back 20 years, however, to the theory propounded by Prof. John Wheeler. He suggested then the existence of a parallel universe consisting of very dense matter, where time ceases to exist (FSR, Vol 31 No 1, 1985, page 9). The advantage of that, some theorists say, is that spacecraft from our universe could travel vast distances instantaneously by moving through the parallel universe.

*Dr Frank Close is co-author of "The Particle Explosion", a pictorial "look into the atom", published by Oxford University Press on January 22, 1987.

UFOs and the DIGITAL COMPUTER

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The Unexplained 1984

Computer processing of photographs of UFOs creates striking and bizarre images, while revealing subtleties that are difficult to discern in the originals. WILLIAM H. SPAULDING, director of Ground Saucer Watch, explains this new research technique

MOST PHOTOGRAPHS of unidentified flying objects are disappointing. They are blurred, lacking in detail and uninformative at a casual glance. Often they lack the context of landscape or everyday objects that would enable one to judge the size and distance of the UFOs. The few that are sharp and clear usually turn out to be fakes.

It is the task of the UFO photo analyst to sift through this mass of low-grade material, weed out the frauds and the misidentified aircraft, birds and astronomical objects, and call attention to the small residue of photographs that resist all attempts at being explained away.

Traditionally, UFO photo analysts have been limited to a few techniques of study. By measuring shadows they may be able to show that the picture consists of a landscape shot combined with a picture of a model taken under totally different lighting conditions. By studying the focus on the UFO they may be able to show that it is much closer to the camera than the witness claimed, and is

therefore much smaller than it appears. By enlarging details they may be able to reveal the presence of a tell-tale 'Frisbee' trade mark. More frequently they can identify the shot as showing some natural object — even that sceptics' favourite, the planet Venus, seen under unusual atmospheric conditions.

But all too often the label 'unidentified' has remained on the photograph because there was apparently too little information to resolve the question 'What is this mysterious object in the sky?' Yet even in the fuzziest photograph there are many subtle clues hidden away. Now a powerful new tool, the computer, promises to disclose them.

One UFO investigation group, Ground Saucer Watch, has applied the computer to the analysis of UFO photographs on a large scale. Ground Saucer Watch was founded in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in 1957 in order to bring a high level of technical expertise to the study of UFO reports. The group wanted, in the words of a statement made then, to 'see positive scientific action taken to end the elements of foul-up and cover-up in UFO research'. A network of 500 scientific and engineering consultants assists it in this task.

Now the computer is available as an aid. It enabled Ground Saucer Watch, in a study of 1000 photographs that had *prima facie* plausibility, to reject all but 45 as misidentifications or hoaxes. Here are some of the techniques that are used to sift such quantities of material.

these are generally dark objects seen against the daytime sky. — But another technique, colour coding, can extract information from the brightness pattern in the original pictures. It exploits the fact that the eye can distinguish colours far more readily than it can distinguish shades of grey.

To colour-code a picture, the computer is linked to a colour television set. Each pixel is assigned a colour according to its brightness. Thus, in the x-ray picture of the flower, the darkest areas are shown as black. The darkest shades of grey (the thinnest parts of the flower) are rendered as shades of violet and red. Increasingly light areas are shown as shades of yellow, green and blue. The lightest areas (the thickest parts of the plant) are rendered as white.

The result is a gaudier flower than nature has ever created, with all the details of structure leaping out at the eye. Radiographers use this type of colour coding on x-ray pictures to improve their view of the interior of the human body.

Astronomers and space engineers apply the same techniques to the photos they take with ground-based telescopes, and to the television images sent back from space satellites and probes. In the original picture, brightness levels may represent the actual brightness of a planet's surface, or the temperature of a gas cloud in space, or the intensity of radio waves from distant galaxies. The patterns in the computer-generated image will represent this information in terms of colour. So, though there is a superficial resemblance in these different types of picture, the information they give is totally different in nature.

An ambiguous message

What does the procedure reveal specifically about UFOs? The brightness pattern of light and dark in the photo image of a UFO is a complex and ambiguous 'message', involving the shape of the object, the amount of light it may be emitting at each point, its intrinsic lightness or darkness if it is being seen by reflected light, the effects of glare and

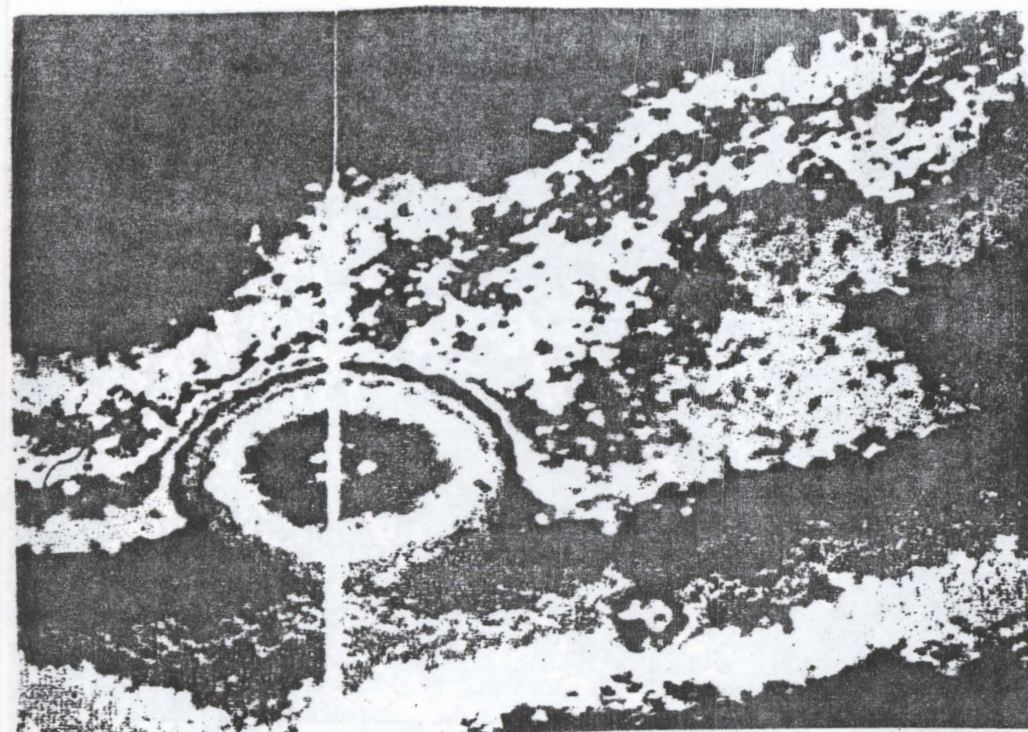
atmospheric haze, and so on. Emphasising the pattern by the colour-coding technique often reveals the true form of the object immediately. A broken, uneven density may indicate a cloud. A cylindrical shape with protruberances may appear, indicating an aircraft body and wings partly hidden by glare. The contours of a 'daylight disc' (meaning any daytime UFO) are revealed, and often turn out to be suspiciously like those of a camera lens cap, a pie plate, or a hub cap.

Ground Saucer Watch has employed these techniques on thousands of photographs. Take as an example the two famous 'Colorado pictures' overleaf. They show a single UFO sighted and photographed at precisely 6.20 a.m. local time on 28 August 1969 by Mr Norman Vedaa and his passenger while driving north-east on State Route 80s, approximately 70 miles (110 kilometres) east of Denver, Colorado. Mr Vedaa described the object as yellow-gold, tremendously brilliant, oval in shape, and soundless. He said: 'The object was bright, hard to look at — and appeared to hover momentarily. The object's glow... was producing a reflective light on the clouds below...' Two colour transparencies were taken and do indeed show a bright yellowish glow with well-defined edges, back-lighting the clouds.

The colour-coding technique was used on the Colorado photographs, and the result is reproduced on page 61. Again, lighter parts of the original are represented by white, blue and yellow, while darker parts are represented by red, violet and black.

The light vertical lines in that picture and in the one below are just a different way of showing brightness information. The computer has taken a 'slice' down the picture along the left-hand line. At the right, it has plotted a graph of the brightness of the scene along that line, shown by the fluctuating line. Thus the 'bump' in the wavy line represents the bright centre of the object.

The computer also speeds up the detailed study of light and shadow at any selected region of the picture. Ground Saucer Watch



has a 'library' of data on the proportion of light that is reflected by each of a large range of materials. In some photographs of UFOs seen by reflected daylight, everyday objects, such as trees or houses, are visible, with which the UFO image can be compared. This may enable the analyst to make a tentative judgement about the composition of the UFO.

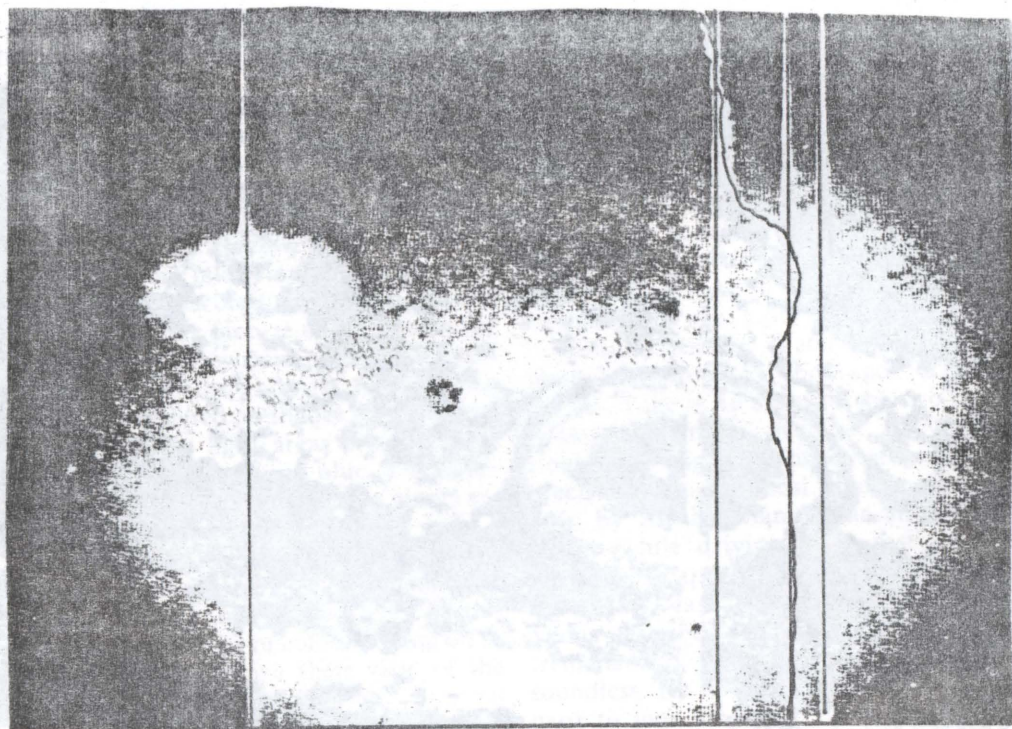
We can compare the contrast in the light and shadowed areas of the UFO image and in landscape features: if there is a serious discrepancy, a composite picture or a model close to the camera is indicated. Essentially the same method can be used to estimate the degree to which atmospheric haze veils the UFO image. The more distant the object is, the lighter and less contrasty it will appear because of light scattered by air molecules, dust and water vapour. This often allows us to make an estimate of the distance of the UFO from the witness.

Careful measurements on the sharpness of various features in the picture are also a

valuable indicator of distance. In fact, the annoying fuzziness of most UFO pictures — which are no worse than most holiday snaps in this respect — can be turned to advantage.

Sometimes the image of a UFO in the sky is beautifully sharp, while all ground features more than 50 feet (15 metres) away are slightly out of focus. This shows that the object is close to the camera — and so must either be a fake or be piloted by very little green men. Making comparisons of focus is a traditional part of UFO photo analysis, now greatly facilitated by the computer.

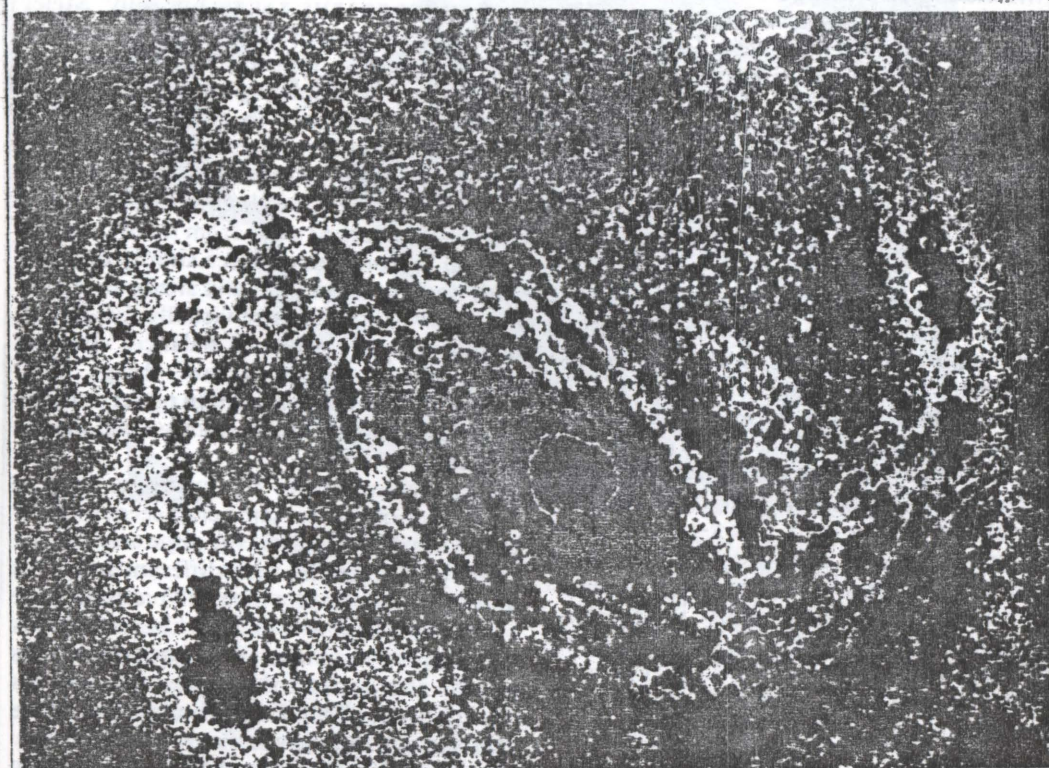
In its study of the Vedaa pictures, Ground Saucer Watch was able to rule out more and more explanations that seek to reduce the sightings to causes that are well-known and understood. This was no weather balloon, flock of birds or daylight meteor — the brightness distribution was that of a disc. It was not an aircraft hidden in the glare of reflected sunlight — it was too bright for that, and not a trace of tail or wings could be



found. Lens flares, reflections from clouds, mirages and other atmospheric effects are all ruled out: the Sun is in the wrong position for them. The object was three-dimensional in form, and it was certainly a long way from the camera.

Objective research will progress with the aid of modern technology, of which the computer is an important component. In the near future photo analysis will be carried out by more sophisticated computer programming, in conjunction with more powerful 'hardware' - faster computers with bigger memory capacity, working with scanners that can break the original image down into yet finer detail. Soon it will become virtually impossible to fake a UFO photograph. Then, perhaps, the UFO mystery will be solved.

▲ measurements of image brightness made by the computer. The measurements are made along the left-hand line. The fluctuating line at the right shows the brightness: it curves to the right where the photograph is brightest. The curve helped to prove the disc was not a lens flare, weather balloon or aircraft



The pictures were analysed with a Computer Eye, manufactured by Spatial Data Systems, Inc. It uses a television-type camera that scans a picture and breaks it down into nearly a quarter of a million tiny 'pixels' (picture cells), in an array consisting of 512 columns and 480 rows.

Although the colours of the photographs provide important information, they do not come into our computer analyses. The scanner 'sees' only a black and white picture. The scanner measures the brightness of each pixel and assigns it a rating on a 'grey scale' from 0 (completely dark) to 31 (bright white). So the whole picture is reduced to a quarter of a million numbers, which are stored in the computer's memory. They can be recalled and used to build up a black and white image, a direct copy of the original, on a television screen linked to the computer. But they can also be manipulated in countless different ways to generate new images,

which reveal unsuspected information in the original picture, or display it in unfamiliar and striking ways.

At the touch of a button the computer operator can do most of the things that the photo technician can do only at the cost of several hours' work in his laboratory.

The computer can instantly enlarge any selected detail of the picture to full-screen size. There are limits to the degree to which this can usefully be done. The picture becomes coarser as the mosaic of pixels becomes more evident. This begins to happen when the picture has been enlarged by about four times, in height and breadth.

The computer can 'stretch' the contrast, brightening the light areas and darkening the shadows, so emphasising the detail in a murky original. (This is what you do to your television picture when you turn up the contrast control.)

Enhancing the image

Measurements of distances and angles on the image become extremely easy. Crossed lines can be superimposed on the picture and moved at will, to identify points of interest. The computer can measure the positions of those points and instantly calculate distances and angles.

All this makes life easier for photo analysts, and enables them to plough through much more material than before. But the computer can also easily accomplish a number of feats that are impracticable, or even impossible, for the photo technician to perform.

For example, the computer can enhance the edges of the features seen in a photo. The effect of edge enhancement is illustrated here with a picture that is a little more conventional than a UFO photo. The x-ray picture of a flower is in black and white. Each shade of grey carries information about the flower – its thickness, and hence ability to absorb x-rays, at that point. In this negative image, the brighter areas correspond to thicker areas of plant tissue. There is a great deal of delicate structure to be seen in the petals and the central pistil.

But the eye's ability to distinguish shades of grey is limited. The result obtained when the edges are enhanced is also shown opposite. Areas of uniform shade in the original are represented as a medium grey in the computer-processed picture. Wherever the original increases in lightness (from left to right) the computer draws a bright line, while where there is a transition from light to dark it draws a dark line. The result is arresting. The flower's structure, which was lost in the subtle, veil-like x-ray image, is now laid bare in a tracery of metallic clarity.

Edge enhancement has little relevance to the indistinct forms visible in many UFO pictures. However, it is revealing when applied to UFO images showing faint detail,

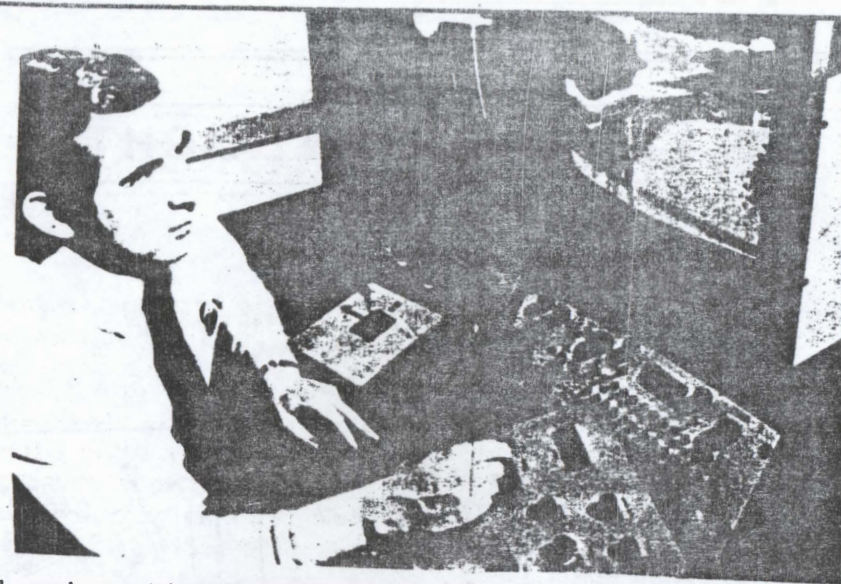


THE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN by 'Billy' Meier of Pleiadean spacecraft as they flew around the valleys near Hinwil, Switzerland, are among the most striking UFO pictures ever published. They are so striking that they evoke that paradoxical response: too good to be true. But after a while one realises, looking at these elegant productions, that one's instinct has backed away from them for a less cynical reason: the pictures simply don't fit with one's sense of light and shade as seen in the real world. They are visually disjointed, offending one's sense of balance, clashing with one's memory of how things look. Then, on a closer look, certain patterns in the pictures emerge – and certain suspicions are aroused.

Is it coincidence, for example, that so many pictures of the same craft seem to show the flying disc at exactly the same angle to the camera, despite the very different locations and times of day at which the pictures were supposedly taken? Why do the reflections and shadows on the Pleiadean spaceships appear the same, too, despite the various backgrounds? Why are the undersides of the craft always so dark – as they would be if they were models, say, close to the camera? Why does only one picture, of extremely low quality, exist of a landed disc? Is there any significance in the massive preponderance of shots in which the craft are shown against a clear, light sky – the best type of background on which to superimpose a UFO image?

Wendelle Stevens and Genesis III – whom it seems fair to call both investigators and publicists of the Meier case – have their own answers to some of these questions. In an interview with the ufologist Timothy Green Beckley, Wendelle Stevens rather disarmingly remarked:

First of all, photographs are poor evidence because there are so many things that we can do technically to produce images. However, there are also so many ways we can detect a hoax. We can tell if we are dealing with superimposed overlays, reflected images, double exposures. We can tell by look-



ing through special microscopes and searching for grain density and grain patterns. We can pretty much tell if an object has been thrown into the air or suspended by something in the air.

And in keeping with that scepticism, the book published by Genesis III, *UFO ... contact from the Pleiades*, shows computer-processed versions of the photographs that appear to validate their authenticity. It is when Wendelle Stevens starts to explain some of the computer enhancements that the reader's credulity is stretched. Says the colonel:

We can [analyse photographs] with a computer by studying the edges around any given object. In high magnification an edge is seen as a series of shock waves. There is a special formula for the spacing of these shock waves that make up the edge. How strong they are, how far apart they are, will tell you how far apart that edge of the object is from the camera. If the body is in motion, the shock waves are compressed on the leading edge, and expand on the trailing edge.

In fact, nothing of the kind happens. What this particular computer process does is enhance the picture contrast in areas where

▲ William H. Spaulding, Director of the Western Division of Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), at the console of the image-processing computer with which GSW analyse UFO photographs. GSW's verdict on the Meier pictures that they studied: 'total hoaxes'

the image brightness varies – especially at the edges of features, making it possible to make judgements about how far the object photographed is from the camera. In some cases, it is possible to intensify otherwise hard-to-detect strings or supports attached to the object. This has nothing whatever to do with shock waves, though Stevens has repeated the idea more than once.

In Genesis III's book, the 12 or so pictures purporting to show analytic enhancements of Meier's pictures are accompanied by details of the various tests to which the photographs were subjected. It is claimed that the computer enhancements showed how the light values of the landscape are consistent with those on the bottom of the craft.

DISCUSSION NIGHT

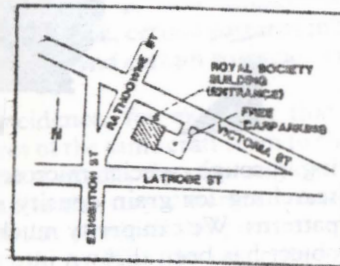
For your Diary

J U N E 5th 1989 MEETING
S E P T 4th 1989 MEETING
D E C 4th 1989 A.G.M.

TIME : 8:00pm

WHERE : 'The Royal Society of Victoria'
Victoria St., Melbourne (SEE MAP)

COST : FULL MEMBERSHIP : NO CHARGE
ASSOCIATE MEMBER : \$2
NON-MEMBER : \$3



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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WELCOME:

Society History

1957

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered - this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society - which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere - is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

THE AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. BULLETIN

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST

PUBLICATION NO. VBH 0122



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